TC05-058



Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.
Dickey Rural Services, Inc.
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.

June 10, 2005

RECEIVED

JUN 1 5 2005

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 East Capitol Ave. Pierre, SD 57501-5070

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to your letter dated June 7, 2005, I have enclosed several documents regarding our Lifeline/Linkup program. In the past, we have enclosed bill inserts into our customers bill's and included a press release in our newsletter two times a year. The information is currently available on our website and in our phone book. We also contact the various County Human Service departments in our service territory to make sure they have the appropriate information to give to their clients.

To become compliant with the FCC outreach efforts, we are in the process of developing a poster, which will be distributed to all federal, state and county buildings; Senior Centers, Food Pantries, Public Housing authorities and homeless/protection shelters within our service territory.

Our advertisements and outreach program will consist of placing a 2 column by 3 inch advertisement in the local newspapers four times/year. We also plan to develop a flyer to be distributed to the schools at the beginning of the school year regarding information about how they might qualify for this assistance based on the school lunch program.

The certification process will continue much like it has in the past, we will continue to accept the Home Telephone Assistance Certificates from the Department of Human Services for those who qualify under the Food Stamps, TANF, Medical Assistance and LIHEAP programs. We will be initiating the Lifeline/Linkup Assistance Application for those customers who may qualify due to SSI, National School Lunch, Federal Public Housing Assistance or whose income is at or below the 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For those customers who may qualify due to the Poverty Guidelines, we have designated one employee to review required documentation.

DRN's verification process will randomly select customers to receive the enclosed letter. This letter will request the customer to recertify that they are still eligible to receive the discounted lifeline telecommunication services within 60 days by completing the enclosed application and providing documentation of continued eligibility.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 701-344-6012 or email jhauck@drtel.com

Sincerel

Janell Hauck

Business/Marketing Manager

Hauck

As a participating company in the lifeline program we are required by law to randomly sample customers such as you, who receive telecommunications services through Lifeline.

In order to continue to receive Lifeline telephone services at discounted rates, you must recertify that you are still eligible to receive discounted Lifeline telecommunications services. You must complete the enclosed application and provide us proof of continued eligibility within 60 days. If you do not, your lifeline telecommunications services will be terminated.

If you have any further questions, please contact Janell Hauck at 701-344-6012.

Sincerely,

Janell Hauck

Dickey Rural Networks

LIFELINE/LINK-UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

(Please Print)

| Name | : | | · | | | |
|-------|--|--|---|----------------|--|--|
| | Last | First | MI | | | |
| Addre | ess: | | | | | |
| | Street | | Apt. No. | | | |
| City | | | | | | |
| | City | State | Zip Code | | | |
| Socia | Security Number: | The state of the s | _ | | | |
| Telep | hone Number (if you h | nave existing service): | | | | |
| Telep | hone Number where ye | ou can be reached or recei | ve messages: | | | |
| 1. | I am applying for: | | telephone service discount) le connection charge discour | nt) | | |
| | Note: Telephone se | rvice MUST be in applica | nt's name. | | | |
| 2. | I am currently receiving assistance benefits from at least one of the following programs (check all that apply): | | | | | |
| | Medicaid (e.g. Food Stamps P | Title XIX/Medical, State rogram | Supplemental Assistance) | | | |
| | Supplemental S | Security Income (SSI) | | | | |
| | | Housing Assistance (Section of Control of Co | ion 8) | | | |
| | Temporary Ass | sistance for Needy Familie I Lunch (NSL) free lunch | es (TANF) program program | | | |
| 3. | Or, | | | | | |
| | (Documentation requ | income is at or below 135 uired) number of people in my ho | percent of the Federal Pover | rty Guidelines | | |
| Lagra | | | | | | |

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OR PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link-Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line. I further authorize the local phone company, the county social service, and the North Dakota Department of Human Services to use my social security number and to

| | Oi, |
|---|---|
| | My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (Documentation required.) There are this number of people in my household. |
| I agree | to notify the telephone company when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria. |
| TRUE one of telepho social number agree t | TIFY UNDER PENALTY OR PERJURTY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least the above qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link-Up assistance on my primary residential one line. I further authorize the local phone company, the Tribal government, the county service, and the North Dakota Department of Human Services to use my social security r and to communicate about my enrollment or eligibility in programs shown above and hat they may share the type of information provided above in order to verify my nent status. |
| Signat | Date Date |

Send the complete application to your local phone company.

Verification of Consumers' Continued Eligibility for Lifeline Sample Letter

| Date: | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|-------|--|---|---|
| То: | Vice President – High Cost and Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036 | | | | | |
| This letter is to certify that Dickey Rural Networks has procedures in place to verify the continued eligibility of a statistically valid random sample of its Lifeline customers. The results are provided in the chart below. | | | | | | |
| To the extent any Lifeline customers qualify based on their income, I certify that my company has income verification procedures in place and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with corroborating income documentation. | | | | | | |
| I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area(s) listed below. | | | | | | |
| Compa Name | iny | Company SAC | State | Number of Lifeline customers surveyed | Number of Lifeline customers found to be ineligible | Number of Lifeline customers who did not respond to survey* |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | |
| * Note: Per the FCC's direction in Public Notice DA 05-1406 (rel. May 18, 2005), companies should update their filing upon completing the survey. | | | | | | |
| Signed, | | | | | | |
| [Signature of Officer] | | | | | | |
| [Printed Name of Officer] | | | | | | |
| [Title of Officer] | | | | | | |
| _ | [Company Address] | | | | | |
| | | | | e i sa di sa d | | |
| [Comp | any Telep | hone Number] | _ | | | |

Telephone Assistance Programs for Low-Income Consumers

ivery person in America should have access to quality affordable telecommunications service. This principle of "Universal ervice" has been the goal of the telecommunications industry for decades, Lifeline, Link Up and Toll Limitation Service appoint provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service.

ifelting assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local relephone service. Those cligible can receive a monthly discount one country of the consumers can receive a 50% discount of the consumers. The consumers with a solution of the consumers are allowed by the consumers are allowed by the consumers are allowed by the consumers.

applications are available at your local Department of Social Services. Anyone qualified under one of the four major conomic assistance programs such as TEEM (AFDC), Food Stamps, Energy Assistance or Medicaid may be eligible. You will a asked to provide proof of your eligibility to participate in either LinkUp or Lifeline to Dickey Rural Networks. It is imported a shed to provide proof of your eligibility to participate in either LinkUp or Lifeline to Dickey Rural Networks. It is imported a shed if you to longer qualify for any economic programs, you will no longer qualify for Lifeline Assistance.



9628 N. Higway/230 | 9777, 55944692 P.O. Box 69 | 7001-34445000 Higgidala, ND 58436 | www.dritalinau



CASE NUMBER -

MAILED DATE:

N D DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

HOME TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE CERTIFICATE

Dear

You have received this certificate because you are eligible to participate in the Link Up and Telephone Assistance programs. The Link Up program assists with initial telephone hook up costs. The telephone Assistance program will pay a part of your monthly local telephone service (not long distance calls or service).

To access the Link Up and Telephone Assistance programs, complete this certificate and mail or deliver it to your local telephone company. In the spaces below, enter your telephone number (if you have one), the name of the individual responsible for the bill, your signature and the date. If you do not have a telephone, please provide your name, signature and the date.

| Case Name: Telephone number: | Billing name |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Eligible applicant's signature | Date |
| Your local telephone company will veri once per year. | fy your continued eligibility |

If your local telephone service is provided by Qwest Communications, mail this certificate to PO BOX 2738, Omaha NE 68103-2738. Otherwise, send or deliver this completed certificate to your local telephone company.

Most telephone companies in North Dakota participate in the Telephone Assistance program. If you have questions about Link Up or Telephone Assistance, contact your telephone company. The North Dakota Public Service Commission can also answer your questions at 701-382-2400.



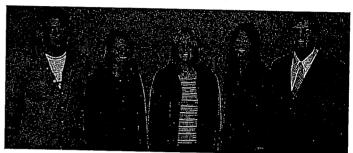
/ Network Connections

Dickey Rural Networks Announces Scholarship Winners

Dickey Rural Networks announced May 12 the five winners of its 2004 Scholarship Program.

"Young people are a valuable asset to our communities and we are pleased to have established a scholarship program to help with the cost of a continued education program," said Mark Scallon, general manager.

"As your local telecommunications service provider, it is our pleasure to award a \$500 scholarship to the following winners: Kate Martin, daughter of Michael and Valerie Martin of Forbes; Marissa Erlandson, daughter of Timothy and Barbara Erlandson of Oakes; Mark Potts, son of Paul and Debbie Potts, Verona; Ashley Johnson, daughter of George and Judy Johnson of Fullerton; and Darcy Brandenburg, son of Michael and Diana Brandenburg of Edgeley," said Scallon.



From left to right: Mark Potts, Verona; Marissa Erlandson, Oakes; Ashley Johnson, Fullerton; Kate Martin, Ellendale; and Darcy Brandenburg, Edgeley

A committee of four reviewed the 26 submitted applications, which were judged on their written essay, application questions and recommendation. Applicants were also judged on their interest in returning to a rural area to work following post secondary graduation.

Customers Will Save Even More with Pick-A-Pak

Save more. Pay Less. Dickey Rural Networks (DRN) has made changes to its three Pick-A-Pak bundles. Effective July 1, the "Speed" Pak will be priced at \$65.95, an additional savings of \$10.00 per month. Plus the DSL speed will go up from 256K to 512K. In the "Extreme" Pak, the DSL speed will increase to 768K with no price change, while the Let's Go" Pak will remain priced at \$45.95/mo.

DRN decided to make these changes to the bundled packages to provide its customers with a greater experience while surfing the net. "After reviewing our customer feedback, DRN management saw the need to lower the price of the Speed Pak and increase the DSL speeds. These changes will be especially helpful to our business customers who need faster Internet connections," said Nadine Olson, DRN information services manager.

"New customers requesting this service should be aware of the fact that DSL availability is determined by the customer's cable distance from the central office or remote fiber cabinets. The service is typically available within three to five miles of these offices. Also, DSL speeds may vary depending upon distance to the central office and customer equipment. Each customer request for DSL is reviewed by our network technician on a case-by-case basis," Olson replied. (story continued on page 2)

inchisissue: 2 Marun Named FRS Scholarship Winner 3 Dial Express Update 5 FUSC Price-Change 5 Gerbing Connected May Se a Phone Call Audu 5 DRN Welcomies New Employees

Kate Martin Named FRS Scholarship Winner



Dickey Rural Networks, in conjunction with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's Foundation for Rural Services, sponsored a college program to award a \$2,500 scholarship to a local high school senior.

One area winner of this year's scholarship is Kate Martin of Forbes. Kate graduated from Ellendale High School and plans to attend the University of North Dakota.

The scholarhips are intended to offer young people from rural America a better chance to receive a higher education. A primary goal of the foundation's college scholarhip program is to encourage young, college graduates to return to rural areas after graduation. More than two-thirds of rural Americans with post-secondary degrees never return to their rural communities.

Over 1,000 applications were submitted this year, and twenty-five students were selected from all across the county to receive an award from the Foundation for Rural Services. Dickey Rural Networks contributed \$500 and the foundation provided the additional \$2,000 of the scholarhip.

Customers Will Save Even More with Pick-A-Pak continued from page 1).

In addition to the speed and pricing changes, all bundles will be upgraded to have the Trouble Isolation Protection Plan Plus (TIPP)), which provides trouble isolation and repair or customers inside wire and facks at no additional cost. Also, they are no longer required to have North Dakota Bong Distance as their primary long distance provider. However, customers will still need to sign at one year contract. All customers will sufficient manually be upgraded to the new DSL speeds:

In other internet news, DRN, customers will also see a price change made to the 256K DSB rate. Effective June 1, the price was reduced from \$59.95/mov/to \$49.95/m

DRN is Bick-A Pakiservice bundles rogether local relephonesservice; interner voice mail Caller ID and TIPP 4. In addition to all those great services, customers can also select two or three custom calling features.

Dalenpressimenet Votce Mail rediminisemen/alrelle Trouble Edetion Protection Plant Plusyourcholcool2Features

Packed Full of Even Mone Value!





<u>Choose/from:these/fine/features:</u>/Custom:Ringing:/3\Way.ealling/rAutomatic/Call/Back/Automatic/Recall-Call/Forwarding/call-Waiting/ Speed/Call/Wake.up/Call/Sarcty/Line/Home/Intercom or/Call/Iranster/

Dates to Remember >>

July 4-Independence Day July 5-DRN Office is Closed July 12—Customer Appreciation Picnic in Dickey July 13 - Customer Appreciation Pienic in Forman July 14—Customer Appreciation Picnic in Ashley

ckey Rural Networks Updates Dial Express Software





Today's Internet users demand instant content and have little patience for slow loading web pages. Dickey Rural Networks (DRN) is listening to its customer's demands and is pleased to announce it has upgraded its Dial Express Internet service. This technology is designed to accelerate web access to near broadband speed including email. "It will move web pages over the Internet more quickly," said Nadine Olson, DRN information services manager.

We decided to switch vendors for our accelerated Internet product (Dial Express) due to many issues we were experiencing with our ormer software," said Olson. It can be downloaded and installed in less than 5 minutes on a dial-up connection and uses only 750k computer space. The new software also allows you to block ads and pop-ups, which will help increase browsing speeds. This is an optional feature and not required for the software to function.

DRN customers will be directed to a website to download the new software for Dial Express and given an access code. Once the product has been downloaded, the customer will have the option to customize the settings.

Existing Dial Express users were mailed a letter last month with information on this upgrade. These existing Dial Express customers needed to install the new Dial Express software by June 30, as the old software will no longer function after that time.

For more information regarding DRN's Dial Express, contact a customer service representative toll free at 877-559-4692. Dial Express will provide you with a greater Internet browsing experience.

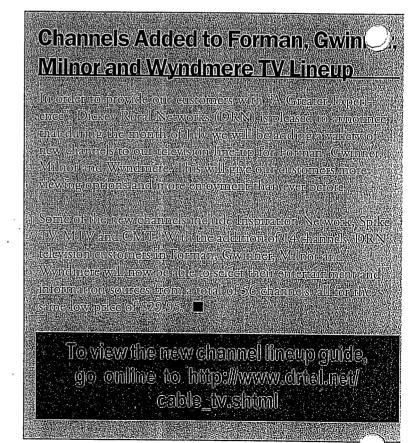
tice of Change in the Federal

Dickey Rural Networks has received notice that effective July 1, 2004, the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) will increase to 58 cents for residential and single business line customers and to 82 cents for multiline business customers.

This amounts to a one cent increase for residential and single ine business customers and a two cent increase for DRN multiine business customers. The FUSC amount is calculated by nultiplying the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) universal service contribution factor (8.9%) times the telephone company's interstate service charges.

The federal universal service fund program is designed to help teep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, n all areas of the United States. The revenues from the FUSC tre submitted to national programs and redistributed to:

- Rural telephone companies, like DRN, to help keep local telephone rates affordable in sparsely populated areas (where the cost of operating is higher than urban areas), and to provide discounts to low-income customers.
- 2) To schools, libraries, and rural health care providers to ffset costs of telecommunications and Internet services.



ew Directory Listings

| ishley 288 | Fort Ransom 973 | T:1 (02 / |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Deb Haux288-2376 | Sara Hanson | Lisbon 683 (continued) |
| J Heim 288-2372 | Homer Duane Paulson 973-2163 | Rob Kinder 683-3417 |
| Donald Reamer 288-2380 | | Chris Lind |
| Mark Rohrich 288-3075 | Fredonia 698 | Lincoln Tire & Auto 683-5856 |
| Dennis P Schumacher 288-3050 | Violet Entzi 698-2682 | Mlaskoch Excavating 683-3410 |
| ames White288-2379 | Fullerton 375 | Rena Richels |
| | Chuck & Bonnie Eaton 375-6019 | Paul & Rita Runningen 683-3429 |
| Pickey 778 | | Emery Stander 683-3418 |
| rian Schmoker 778-7142 | Guelph 783 | Litchville 762 |
| ldgeley 493 | Travis Waddington 783-4321 | Matt & Susan Erlanson 762-4828 |
| Celly Flores | Amy Glynn 783-4321 | Myra & Darrell Helm 762-4816 |
| Iicheal Lipetzky493-3105 | Gwinner 678 | Bruce & Connie Reiten 762-4826 |
| | • | |
| llendale 349 | Roger Bucholz | Marion 669 |
| obert & Donna Barton 349-2709 | Shawn Lambertz 678-6874 | Carol Schmidt 663-2423 |
| effrey & Alicia Boyle 349-2708 | Teffrey Peopley (79.0077 | Milnor 427 |
| oteau Grain & Seed 349-2710 | Jeffrey Peasley | Shannon & Trina Fischer 427-9406 |
| teve Gans349-2713 | J Peralta | Ruth Moxness |
| rian Hattenbach349-2712 | Janet Peterson | Robert Powers |
| 1arcella Jensen 349-2726 | Shannon & Cheri Scholz 678-6894 | Jocelyn Rall |
| n & Laca Malsbury 349-2723 | Jud 685 | Chris Sandvig |
| A Mcdowell 349-2714 | Daniel Raby 685-2231 | Shonah Wiest |
| yler Pomplun 349-2705 | | • |
| tephen Scarson 349-2715 | Kathryn 796 | Oakes 742 |
| hawn & DiAnn Sigafoos 349-2719 | The Rusty Spur Cafe 796-7501 | Sidney & Linda Berreth 742-2848 |
| randon Strong 349-2718 | Kulm 647 | Dean B & Lori Brummund 742-3723 |
| arryl & Deborah Tank 349-2703 | Norman & Annette Crickenberger | Michael & MaryEllen Carlson |
| lan & Kimberley Webster 349-2732 | | 742-2013 |
| ella K Williams 349-2724 | Smart Start Daycare 647-2153 | Country Ins & Financial Services |
| atrick & Shannon Young 349-2728 | | 742-2148 |
| asey Yunck 349-2730 | LaMoure 883 | Crete Grain-West Station 742-2982 |
| • | Travis Alber 883-5661 | Shandy Ereth 742-2964 |
| orbes 357 | Brandy Garton | Hazel Hewitt742-2634 |
| ott & Laura Alonzo 357-8081 | Todd Hample | Donna Iverson 742-2409 |
| orbes, SD 358 | Information Technology Dept | N Krivickas 742-3729 |
| enny & Marilyn Nelson 358-8620 | 883-5533 | Mayo Construction742-2657 |
| it & Pam Schaffner 358-8662 | Jr. Sales Inc | Curt Olstad 742-3078 |
| 20 CE TAIN GENAITHER 576-6002 | Irene A Ketterling 883-4312 | Kevin Robbins 742-2198 |
| orman 724 | Lisbon 683 | Maria Sonora 742-2547 |
| ichard Banish724-3824 | Barbara Anderson 683-3431 | Jessica Sorenson 742-3056 |
| lint Jewett 724-4028 | Shawn Anton 683-3409 | Trevor & Aimee Teske 742-2624 |
| akota Precision Fabrication 724-4043 | David Bakken 683-3447 | Sharon Thompson 742-2845 |
| anklin Heitmann 724-3811 | S Hobson | • |
| ernon Leist 724-4024 | Clarence & Mima Ihme 683-3407 | |
| 77 | J4U/ | |

Andrea Kielb 683-3438

Getting Connected May Be a Phone Call Away

Few can argue that having a telephone is considered one of life's necessities, yet not everyone has the ability to pay for this staple of modern American life. So what is being done to make telephone service more accessible to low-income consumers?

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Universal Service Fund includes a Low-Income Program that provides discounts on telephone installation and monthly telephone service to qualifying consumers. Link-Up America and the Lifeline Assistance Program are the two components of this program. Here's what each provides: Link-Up America: help for qualified low-income consumers to connect (or hook up) to the telephone network by offsetting one-half of the initial hook-up fees, up to \$30.00 for qualified households.

Lifeline Assistance Program: discounts on basic monthly service for qualified subscribers. These amounts range from \$6.75 to \$9.50 per month, depending on the consumers' state regulatory authority.

Qualifications to participate in these two programs can vary by state. Some states have their own Lifeline program and criteria. For those states that rely solely on the federal Low-Income Program, applicants must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), federal public housing assistance, or in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

As K. Dane Snowden, Chief of the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau said, "Link-Up America and Lifeline Assistance Program ensure that everyone in this country has affordable telephone service—a vital link to 911, the way we look for jobs and how we stay in touch with our families and friends."

If you are a low-income consumer, getting connected may be a phone call away. Call Dickey Rural Networks or state regulatory agency to see if you qualify for discounts under Link-Up America and the Lifeline Assistance Program.

Dickey Rural Networks Welcomes New Employees

Dickey Rural Networks (DRN) is pleased to announce the hiring of several new employees to their hometown telecommunications team. DRN welcomes Chris LaMont, Patrick Young, Amanda Heine, Kayla Peldo, Lucus Larson, Tim Baldwin, Tyler Middlestead, and Brandon Rall.

Chris LaMont of Ellendale has filled the position of Telecommunications Equipment Technician. LaMont graduated from Mitchell Technical Institute with an Associate of Science Degree in Telecommunications this spring. Seeing many opportunities in a rural area, LaMont returned to Ellendale after graduation to begin his career in telecommunications at DRN. He will be responsible for testing, installing, and maintenance upkeep for the central office switching equipment.

Wanting to live closer to family and friends and also seeking a career continuation as a facilities maintenance technician, Patrick Young of Tea, SD chose to move back to the area. Young is formally of Guelph. Young's primary job will be maintenance of heating and air conditioning equipment at 26 locations. His other responsibilities include maintenance of building structures, grounds and emergency power plants. Prior to coming to DRN, Patrick was employed by Central Heating and Air-Conditioning of Sioux Falls. Patrick and his wife Shannon reside in Ellendale.

Additions to the marketing team this summer are Amanda Heine and Kayla Peldo both of Ellendale. Heine is a junior at Southwest Minnesota State University and is working as a Marketing Intern. Peldo is helping with clerical work for the department. Peldo, a 2004 graduate of Ellendale High School, will be attending North Dakota State University in the fall.

Lucas Larson, Tyler Middlestead, Brandon Rall, Tim Baldwin and Gary Bernhardt joined the Construction Crew for the summer. Lucas Larson of LaMoure attends Minot State University-Bottineau. Ellendale native, Tyler Middlestead recently graduated from NDSU. Brandon Rall of Forbes will be a senior at Ellendale High School this fall. Tim Baldwin is origin from Edgeley and will be returning to Northern State University in the fall.



DRAGGERER Appreciation Pierice

Grab your lawn chair and get ready for some fun and relaxation during Dickey Rural Networks (DRN) Customer Appreciation Days, July 12-14.

As our way of saying thanks, DRN's Board of Directors. Management, and Employees Invite you to attend a compilmentary hamburger and brait barbeque. Join us at one of the following locations: (In case of inclement weather, the barbeque will be held at the location listed in parentheses.)

July 12-Lot Beside Town Hall, Dickey (Town Hall) July 13-Forman City Park, Forman (City Hall) July 14-Centennial Park, Ashley (American Legion)

The complimentary barbeque will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The menu will consist of hamburgers, brats, baked beans, chips, cookles, and lemonade. All DRN customers are welcome to attend.

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11670316, ND 58436